

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #42 **Summer Announcement #37, District 1 Commercial Fishing Period #8** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate through July 8 is approximately 1.8 million fish which is above the historical median of 1.2 million fish for this date.

The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through July 8 is approximately 129,300 summer chum salmon with a reported 1,619 Chinook salmon caught but not sold.

Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon, this announcement opens one commercial salmon fishing period in District 1. Based on current assessment, including the current commercial harvest information, the area open to commercial fishing is being limited to only a portion of District 1 in which the incidental harvest rate of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low.

District 1 Commercial (South Mouth Only): Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be from 4:00 p.m. Monday, July 9, until 12:00 Midnight Monday, July 9. This will be an 8-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon.

Only a portion of District 1 will be open to commercial fishing. The area open to commercial fishing within District 1 will be the South Mouth down river of the lower point of Head of Passes to Chris Point, both locations identified by ADF&G regulatory markers. The area open to commercial fishing includes Black River, Kwiguk Pass, and coastal waters from Chris Point to one mile north of Kwiguk Pass. Middle and North Mouth and passes such as Aproka, north of the mainstem South Mouth are closed to commercial fishing.

No Chinook salmon can be sold in any summer chum commercial openings until further notice. Therefore, fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. All Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen are reminded that Chinook salmon caught must have both tips of the tail fin removed prior to concealing or removing the fish from the fishing grounds from June 1 to July 15.

This commercial fishing period will overlap with the subsistence fishing period already scheduled to open this evening. Subsistence fishing in District 1 will be open for an 18-hour period from 8 p.m. Monday, July 9 until 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 10.

Fishermen in Districts 1 and 2 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding changes to the subsistence salmon fishing schedules or commercial fishing periods in these districts.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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